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Utilities can keep repair plans, announces Sen. Toy

Lansing – The Michigan Senate today voted to allow utilities to continue to offer appliance repair programs to their customers if they follow certain guidelines, said Sen. Laura Toy (R-Livonia), who sponsored the bill.

“This is a victory for the seniors who so desperately depend on these appliance service plans,” Toy said. “More than 700 people contacted me to express their support for this bill, and the overwhelming support it received in the Senate shows that my colleagues also recognize its importance.”

SB 612 spells out certain circumstances under which a regulated utility could maintain a repair and servicing program. It requires the Public Service Commission to ensure that ratepayers are not subsidizing the program and prohibits the utility from promoting the program in its utility bills.

Specifically, the bill would allow Consumers Energy to continue offering its successful and popular furnace-and appliance-repair program. Approximately 175,000 customers use the program.

“This important and consumer-friendly bill will help Michigan’s residents, especially its seniors who are on fixed incomes,” Toy said. Their participation in Consumers Energy’s widely used and highly valued Appliance Service Program provides great peace of mind.”

SB 612 now goes before the House for consideration. Toy encourages residents to contact their representatives and express their support for the bill.

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